

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 27

SUBJECT: APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO PREVENT, ADDRESS AND SEEK AN END TO HOMELESSNESS AND APPROVE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On October 19, 2021 (15) and February 8, 2022 (14), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved recommendations that set forth compassionate emergency solutions and pathways to housing for people experiencing homelessness.

To expand on the work already set forth, on October 11, 2022 (12), the Board voted to approve additional and innovative ways to expand emergency housing options. These options include exploring the feasibility of purchasing sleeping cabins or sprung shelters for partner organizations to place on their properties for use as shelters, along with conducting stakeholder input sessions to determine need, interest, and capacity of local organizations to utilize these shelter options; a plan to explore partnerships with local private companies that have new and innovative solutions to address homelessness; develop the criteria to site County of San Diego (County) funded shelter options on non-County properties and include a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) finding as required.

Today's actions request acceptance of the analysis of the feasibility to purchase sleeping cabins or sprung shelters, approval of the stakeholder engagement plan, and approval of the plan to engage local private companies through a Request for Information seeking new and innovative solutions and find that today's actions are exempt from CEQA. If approved, a report will be submitted within 120 days that includes outcomes of stakeholder engagement and information gathered through the Request for Information, including costs and potential funding sources in order to move forward.

These items support the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by improving the lives of our most vulnerable residents, specifically unsheltered people experiencing homelessness by exploring new and innovative ways to add new emergency housing resources and ensure that people experiencing homelessness have increased options when it comes to shelter. Today's actions also align with the County of San Diego's Framework for Ending Homelessness, particularly the Emergency/Interim Housing and Resources strategic domain, which seeks to expand emergency housing options.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed actions are not a project pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378 and are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed actions may have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Accept the analysis of the feasibility to purchase sleeping cabins or sprung shelters for partner organizations to place on their properties for use as emergency shelters which finds that the more feasible approach would be to have the Department of Purchasing and Contracting select a vendor at a competitive rate for sleeping cabins or sprung shelters which qualified partner organizations could purchase directly through a County of San Diego grant program.
3. Approve the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities plan to conduct stakeholder input sessions to determine need, interest, and capacity of local organizations to utilize sleeping cabins and engagement of stakeholders and partner organizations and return to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) with the outcomes in 120 days.
4. Approve the plan to engage local private companies through a Request for Information to be posted publicly seeking new and innovative solutions and return to the Board with the outcomes in 120 days.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

In 2022, the We All Count Point-in-Time Count identified 8,427 individuals as living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County. Of the 4,106 who were unsheltered, 25% were 55 years of age or older, 8% were youth, and 15% reported chronic homelessness. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness, with 24% identifying as Black or African American, which is five times the proportion of African Americans in the region; 3% identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native, which is nearly three times the proportion in the region.

The cost of housing continues to increase in our region leaving many families at risk of homelessness. To address the varied needs of San Diego County residents at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, it is imperative to explore additional options to ensure a healthy, safe, and dignified environment for all. Identifying additional housing resources further emphasizes the County of San Diego's compassionate and committed approach to addressing homelessness by exploring partnerships with organizations to increase shelter options and keep unsheltered residents safe from the dangers associated with living on the streets.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions support the County of San Diego's (County's) Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community; Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access; and Sustainability Goal #3 to protect health and wellbeing. Through the development of additional shelter options and locations the County will be engaging the community by working with private entities to site sheltering options on their properties and developing public/private partnerships to create innovative approaches to addressing homelessness. This will allow the County to provide increased shelter options and provide just and equitable access to these shelters for those experiencing homelessness. These shelter options will also protect health and wellbeing by providing supportive services connected to these new shelter options.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with future recommendations. Any such recommendations would return to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for approval. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

Providing additional sheltering options and developing programmatic partnerships with private entities could beneficially impact our communities and businesses in assisting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

ACTION:

This item was withdrawn at the request of the Chief Administrative Officer.

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter